

driving and on-duty time pertaining to utility vehicle operators and drivers, and for other purposes.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to reform the coastwise, intercoastal, and noncontiguous trade shipping laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1818

At the request of Mr. FORD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1818, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for retirement savings and security.

S. 1819

At the request of Mr. FORD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1819, a bill to amend the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to provide for retirement savings and security.

S. 1820

At the request of Mr. FORD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1820, a bill to amend title 5 of the United States Code to provide for retirement savings and security.

S. 1821

At the request of Mr. FORD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1821, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for retirement savings and security.

AMENDMENT NO. 4038

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4038 intended to be proposed to S. 1764, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military construction, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 63—RELATIVE TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Mrs. KASSEBAUM submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 63

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF DISASTER RESERVE FOR ASSISTANCE TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS.

In light of the prolonged drought conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture should promptly dispose of all commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under section 813 of the Agricultural Act of 1970 (7 U.S.C. 1427a) to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by the prolonged drought.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS TAX INCENTIVES BILL

• Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise to address the Senate on a bill that over-

whelmingly passed the House of Representatives this week. The vote was 414 to 10. The bill I refer to is the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996.

The bill is a collection of tax incentives for small businesses. As every Member of this body knows, small businesses create the lion's share of jobs in America. The bill will lift some of the heavy tax burden borne by small businesses. To the extent we lift the tax burden on small businesses, these businesses will be able to continue to create jobs for Americans. Included in the bill are some proposals that were contained in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

First, an increase in the amount of equipment a small business can expense; the current annual amount of \$17,500 would be gradually increased to \$25,000.

Second, a package of proposals to simplify the pension tax rules. These proposals will bring more small businesses and their workers into the pension system; in addition, these proposals will enhance pension security for millions of American workers and their families.

Third, a series of proposals to reform the subchapter S corporation tax rules. Almost 2 million small businesses do business as subchapter S corporations.

This package of small business tax incentives is fully paid for.

Mr. President, I congratulate Chairman BILL ARCHER for successfully shepherding this package of much-needed tax relief through the House of Representatives.

In recent days, many of my colleagues have asked me about Senate action on this bill. When the bill arrives from the House, I expect the bill to be referred to the Finance Committee. Once referred to the Finance Committee, I anticipate taking action on the bill shortly after the Senate returns from the Memorial Day recess.

Mr. President, the Finance Committee, including longstanding members on both sides of the aisle, has a tradition of sensitivity to the needs of small business. I intend to continue that tradition with a Finance Committee imprint on the small business tax bill.

In addition, Mr. President, I am also considering adding measures to help create economic growth, promote savings and investment, and enhance economic opportunities for all Americans.●

A CRACKDOWN ON IMMIGRANTS IS RESTRICTING SCHOLARSHIPS

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I cast one of the few votes against the immigration bill that passed the U.S. Senate recently. And I did it because part of the bill simply goes too far. We are in a period in which there is a great deal of mean-spirited and anti-immigrant sentiment, a mean-spiritedness and sentiment that does not serve the Nation well.

For example, my amendment to permit people who are illegal immigrants, and who are going to become citizens, to get student aid that is available to all American citizens, is just common sense.

We want these future citizens to be productive members of our society.

The bill that passed the Senate not only denies them that assistance, but can be the basis for deportation if they receive that aid for one year.

Two items have appeared recently that should cause us to reflect a little more.

One is an op-ed piece in the Chicago Sun Times, by a member of the editorial board, Tom Sheridan.

The other is an article titled "A Crackdown on Immigrants Is Restricting Scholarships" by Dirk Johnson that appeared in the New York Times. I ask that both articles be printed in the RECORD after my remarks.

Both suggest that we are being shortsighted in what we are doing.

I urge my colleagues to read these two items if they have not done so.

The op-eds follow:

FOREIGN TREASURES

(By Tom Sheridan)

First, an explanation. I'm half-Irish on my father's side. Third generation. My mother's ancestry is more muddled, though European. My wife is half-Italian (third generation), with the rest mostly German.

With that mix, our kids would be a diverse lot. But we also have children who are Filipino (first generation) Hispanic (second generation) and Asian.

What I've done to enrich the Sheridan family gene pool is nothing less than remarkable. It's the same way families—and Nations—are enriched: Each of us has ancestors who came from somewhere else.

All of which makes me very impressed with people becoming U.S. citizens these days. And damn glad I was born here and didn't have to take the citizenship test. I might not pass it.

A study question for the citizenship test: How many changes or amendments are there to the U.S. Constitution? Do you know? Without looking?

There's a lot of public yelping these days over immigration—legal and no-so-legal. Illegal immigration is just that—illegal—and should not be tolerated. Congress is right to clamp down on it.

But we seem to have confused the two. It has given us a sense of public schizophrenia. On one hand, the folks in Congress have passed legislation making it harder to immigrate—even legally. On the other hand, Immigration and Naturalization Service people are working doubly hard to help people become citizens.

Bills rolling through Congress would slow the immigration process. Included in the measure passed by the Senate this month are provisions to sharply limit federal benefits available to legal residents, even as they pursue the process of becoming citizens.

It means that legal immigrants couldn't apply for a student loan, a tuition grant (even based on merit) or federal job-training assistance. The penalty is deportation. Even if a legal immigrant gets help, and later seeks citizenship, the reward would be deportation.

Should we tolerate legal residents who perform acts of terrorism against the United States, or threaten its society with acts such as drug-smuggling? Of course not. But under the recent Terrorism Act, a legal resident who has been a successful member of society

for years and ran afoul of the law would be deported.

That's hardly a welcoming gesture. It would make me wonder whether our nation, which has traditionally embraced all classes of people, really wanted me.

It screams election-year propaganda: "Look everybody; look how tough we are." Such tough talk is phony. But only three senators, including Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, saw it that way and voted against it.

All of which brings me to the act of becoming a citizen, which more than 19,000 people did through the Chicago INS office last year. Five times that many will take the oath to support and defend the United States this year.

Test question: What amendment addresses or guarantees voting rights?

Citizenship USA, an INS project, took over 18,000 square feet of the old Sears store on State Street on April 30. Workers are processing at least 800 people a day to work through a backlog of citizenship applications. In the 12-month period ending this fall, INS officials expect that an amazing 60,000 new citizens will have been naturalized in Chicago. That's wonderful.

The next celebration of citizenship will take place May 24 in the International Amphitheater, where 10,000 new citizens from scores of nations around the world will be sworn in.

Question: Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

Answer: For religious freedom. And a better life.

That's something we should keep in mind when we put up roadblocks to the process that enriches us as a nation. Immigration certainly enriched me.

A CRACKDOWN ON IMMIGRANTS IS RESTRICTING SCHOLARSHIPS

(By Dirk Johnson)

EDGAR, WI, May 9.—Vying to attend a prestigious camp for patriotic young Wisconsin scholars, one student's résumé sparked above the rest: a 16-year-old who earned straight A's, played violin, spoke French and displayed an interest in government.

But the girl, Pang Thao, a junior at rural Edgar High School, has been rejected by the camp's sponsor, the American Legion Auxiliary, because she is not a United States citizen, even though she will become one in a matter of months.

"Rules are rules, and unfortunately she's not a citizen," said Eileen Knox, a spokeswoman for the Auxiliary. "There are lots of American-born girls who are still waiting in the wings, hoping they can be chosen."

The rejection of Pang, who immigrated with her parents when she was two months old, follows a similar incident in Texas earlier this spring. The Houston Stock Show and Rodeo awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to a Texas honors student, only to withdraw the prize after learning the winner was not a United States citizen.

When it comes to anger toward immigrants and their children, a growing sentiment by almost any measure, Americans usually complain about unskilled and illiterate newcomers putting a drain on budgets and services.

But the rejection of the two young scholars, immigration advocates say, illustrates a wellspring of resentment against those who can compete, perhaps too well.

"On the one hand, we encourage assimilation and achievement," said Lucas Guttentag, a lawyer who specializes in immigration for the American Civil Liberties Union, "and we say we want immigrants to learn the values of American society. But then we turn around and exclude these peo-

ple from the very institutions that imbue those values."

The tough immigration bill passed overwhelmingly by the Senate, for example, would deny college financial aid to legal immigrants who are not citizens.

For Pang, the talk of policy and politics can be reduced to something very basic. "There are a lot of people out there who don't like me," she said the other night, while on break from her job as a waitress at her parents' restaurant. "They don't know me. But they don't like me."

In fact, Mr. and Mrs. Thao were among the thousands of Hmongs driven by Communist forces from Laos for helping the United States in the Vietnam War.

Pang is an exceedingly polite teenager who seems to bend over backwards to avoid sounding like a complainer. But she hears plenty of the stereotypes about minorities: "They get more welfare. They don't pay taxes. They're not loyal to America."

She has found herself saying in a flash of defensive anger: "Man don't you understand, I'm here because of you. I'm here because my relatives and my ancestors helped the Americans in the war."

Her parents, Long, 38, and Chong Thao, 38, delayed starting the citizenship process until last year. "It is hard to let go when you come from another country," said Mrs. Thao. "It's a part of you. But over time, we understand. This is our home country now. We are Americans." They run the Thai Cafe in a strip mall in Wausau, a city of 37,000 in central Wisconsin with a sizeable Hmong (pronounced mung) population. Pang works nights and Saturdays.

Mrs. Thao also works full time as a case-worker for the Marathon County Welfare Department. In addition, the family raises ginseng in the fields around their farmhouse here, about 20 miles west of Wausau.

The family, with six children, struggles financially. But the parents remember life in the refugee camp in Thailand. "The refugee camp was hell," Mrs. Thao said. "Not enough food. Poor sanitation. Hot. A lot of sick children. Many died. We were lucky."

Pang and her parents have been careful not to criticize the American Legion. And they have expressed gratitude to the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, which recently invited Pang to participate in an international conference there in June, as a consolation for her rejection at the Legion camp, Badger Girls State.

Those who defend the citizenship rule noted that favoritism for citizens goes back to the nation's founders. They point to the constitutional requirement that the President be born in the United States.

"Citizenship means something," said Mrs. Knox, of the Legion Auxiliary. "On Election Day, you cannot go to the polls and say, 'Well, I'm going to be a citizen next week.'"

The disappointment in the Thao family has been keen, although Pang, the oldest child, bristles at the notion of people feeling sorry for her. "I'm not complaining," she said. "I'm not whining, and I don't need anyone's pity." More than anything else about the citizenship issue, she said, she is bothered by the views of those who believe being born in the United States is a virtue. "I really dislike this idea of some people being superior over others," she said. "Most of the people here are just a mix of nationalities from somewhere else. The difference between me and you is the color of our skin and our background. And that's it."

At the time of the application for the camp, it appeared the citizenship approval might be granted in time. But the shut-down of some Government offices in the Washington budget dispute delayed citizenship applications and doomed those hopes.

"It's all right, Mom, it's really no big deal," Pang had said, knowing how badly her mother felt.

The students and teachers at Edgar High School, where minorities can be counted on the fingers of one hand, have supported Pang, said Mark Lacke, the school principal.

"She is a very bubbly, smart, popular girl," said Mr. Lacke, who had pressed the Legion to reconsider. If the Legion would not budge, Mr. Lacke asked if it would be possible for Pang to attend the camp as an observer, rather than as a delegate. The principal said he would drive the girl there himself, and the school would pay her expenses.

"They got back to me and said there was no latitude," he said. "There should have been some forum for an appeal here."

Pang, who will attend the University of Minnesota after she graduates from high school next year, plans to study architectural design. "The best schools are in the East, but they're really expensive," she said.

As Pang helped her harried parents clear tables and deliver orders, she spoke of the financial pressures at home, vowing to claim a piece of the American dream.

"After college," she said, "I'm going make big bucks, help my little sister get in to one of those Eastern schools—one of us has got to." ●

DEMOCRATS BLOCKING REPEAL OF THE GAS TAX

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I am disappointed that again today, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle blocked efforts to start to relieve the tax burden on the American people by repealing the 1993 Clinton gas tax increase. I wish we would have been able to repeal this tax today before the American people set off to enjoy the Memorial Day weekend and the beginning of the summer driving season.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle had agreed to pass the gas tax repeal if the House passed the minimum wage bill in a form acceptable to them. Well, Mr. President, the House did pass a clean minimum wage bill. Yet, rather than keep their promise and pass the gas tax repeal, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have again blocked its passage. Time and again we have tried to accommodate them and time and again they have backed away from their promises. How are we to help the American people if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to renege on their promises?

I would like to remind my colleagues, that when President Clinton raised taxes \$268 billion in 1993, he said he was raising them on the rich. We knew then that that was not true. Now there is no doubt. President Clinton has raised taxes not only on the middle class but also on low-income families, and now my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are denying these low-income families tax relief. The truth is, Mr. President, that every person who drives a car, who buys groceries, who takes the bus, the train, or a plane has to pay this tax. These aren't all rich Americans. In fact, Americans who are hit the hardest by this regressive tax are people at the lowest income levels,